

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 2-6, 9-12, 17 and 18 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 27-30 have been added herein. This Response, submitted in reply to the Office Action dated January 14, 2008, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 14-16 and 19-26 are allowed. Further, Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of claims 7-9 and 13 is allowable.

Claim Rejections-35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Japanese Utility Model Registration 3076080 (henceforth "Japan '080"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

During a telephone conversation of January 4, 2008, the Examiner indicated that claim 1 would be allowable over Japan '080 if amended to recite:

“...a first indication member at which is indicated first information upon a side of the indicator urging a user to perform a predetermined operation before using the electrical connector, and which is attachable to the electrical connector such that the electrical connector **is encapsulated within the indicator and** cannot be connected if the user does not remove the indicator, and which can be removed from the electrical connector...”

Claim 1 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner and, Applicant respectfully submits, is now patentable over the Japan '080 reference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

New Claims

In the present office action, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claims 7-9 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 27-30 have been newly added herein, and correspond to the subject matter of claims 7-9 and 13, rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 27-30 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880 via EFS payment screen. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/SMG/

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